



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2012

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Erin McGrath (202) 418-2042

**STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL
ON THE MEDIA BUREAU ORDER GRANTING THE TRIBUNE APPLICATIONS
AND WAIVERS OF THE NEWSPAPER-BROADCAST CROSS-OWNERSHIP RULE**

The following statement can be attributed to Commissioner Robert M. McDowell:

“I am pleased that the long-standing Tribune matter is moving forward. The Media Bureau is correct to reinstate Tribune’s waivers of the obsolete newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership ban. The outdated ban itself should be eliminated because the record indicates that it is likely undermining the public interest on several levels. Furthermore, the ban is more than likely an unconstitutional limitation on speech by restricting speakers’ access only to those platforms favored by the government. If this encroachment on First Amendment rights ever made sense in 1975 when it was codified, it no longer does in the face of today’s highly competitive, dynamic and fragmented media marketplace. Accordingly, no rules should exist to which waivers need to be granted. In that spirit, while such rules still reside on our books, the Commission should grant waivers permanently and not in miniscule one-year segments that require speakers to crawl back to the government for permission to speak. I look forward to working further with my colleagues on this important matter in the recently circulated media ownership order.”